

ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

May 25, 2011

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Lane, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Madam Secretary:

Overall, we think the Department has done a responsible job of standing up the Chemical Facilities Antiterrorism Standards (CFATS) program since it was first authorized in 2006. However, a constant concern has been the pace at which site security plans for chemical facilities are reviewed and approved by the Department.

Chemical facility owners and operators, and thousands of workers, have a genuine sense of urgency about implementing site security plans for two reasons. First, they want the protection that the plans offer against potential terrorist incursion. Second, delay is costly because important investment decisions, including decisions to hire more workers, are often placed on hold while the facility's budget is developed in a manner which will ensure that the CFATS requirements are fulfilled.

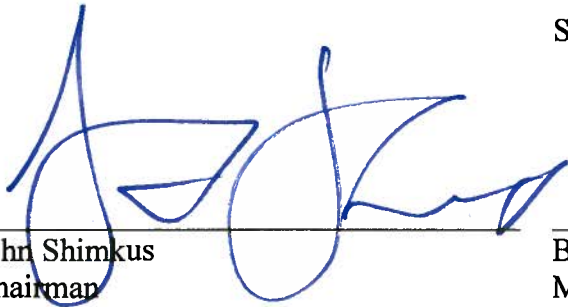
Given the importance of these plans, pursuant to Rules X and XI of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, we request your response to the following questions:

- What practical steps can the Department take within your current funding level to speed up this review process without compromising security?
- Are any existing CFATS review steps redundant?
- As the Department becomes more experienced with the implementation of site security plans, won't the approval process for those plans take place in a more expeditious manner?
- What is the current timetable for the review and approval of site security plans for chemical facilities? Do you have separate schedules for Tiers I through IV?
- Has the Department been able to keep pace with its timetable?

It would be a tragedy if a plant were struck by a terrorist attack that could have been prevented if a site security plan had been approved sooner. Likewise, it would be tragic if an unemployed worker loses an opportunity to work at a chemical facility because a hiring schedule is placed on hold while awaiting approval from the Department on its site security plan.

We request a response within two weeks of the date of this letter. Thank you for your prompt attention to our concerns. Please contact Committee staff David McCarthy at (202) 225-2927 should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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John Shimkus  
Chairman

Subcommittee on Environment and  
the Economy

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Cassidy", written over a horizontal line.

Bill Cassidy  
Member

Subcommittee on Environment and  
the Economy

cc: The Honorable Fred Upton, Chairman

The Honorable Henry A. Waxman, Ranking Member

The Honorable Gene Green, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Environment and the Economy